

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

~~1 Sub 131~~ 1. An orthopedic appliance, comprising a wedge for placement under a toe, the wedge having a top surface adapted to support the toe and a lower surface, wherein an angle of inclination between the top surface and the bottom surface is between 1 and 60 degrees.

1 2. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the angle of inclination is between 10 and 20 degrees.

1 3. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the wedge is formed integrally as part of a piece of footwear.

1 4. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the wedge comprises an elastomeric material.

1 5. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein the wedge comprises a material selected from the group consisting of: cork, leather, resilient foam, and thermoplastic material.

1 6. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, wherein a concave depression is formed in the top surface.

1 7. The orthopedic appliance of claim 1, further comprising at least one

2 fastener.

1 8. The orthopedic appliance of claim 7, wherein the at least one
2 fastener comprises a plurality of bands disposed adjacent the top surface.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one fastener comprises
2 a sheath disposed over the top surface.

1 Sub 10. An apparatus for orthopedic treatment, comprising:
2 B2 a top surface adapted to support a toe;
3 a bottom surface; and
4 a support which maintains a toe at an angle of inclination between
5 the top surface and the bottom surface.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the angle of inclination is
2 between 1 and 60 degrees.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the angle of inclination is
2 between 10 and 20 degrees.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the support is formed integrally
2 as part of a piece of footwear.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein a concave depression is formed
2 in the top surface.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising at least one fastener.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least one fastener
2 comprises a plurality of bands disposed adjacent the top surface.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the at least one fastener
2 comprises a sheath disposed over the top surface.

AC 1 Sub B3
18. A method for improving stability of a foot during ambulation,
comprising:
3 providing a wedge having a top surface and a bottom surface; and
4 elevating a toe to a predetermined angle of inclination using the
5 wedge.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the angle of inclination is between
2 approximately 1 and 60 degrees.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the angle of inclination is
2 between 10 and 20 degrees.

1 21. The method of claim 18, further comprising fixing the bottom surface of
2 the wedge to a piece of footware.

1 22. The method of claim 18, further comprising fixing the wedge to the toe
2 using a plurality of bands.

1 23. The method of claim 18, further comprising fixing the wedge to the toe
2 using a sheath.

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